

# Gate closed on horror

Knowing that the special effects team that worked on some of the top horror productions, had a hand in *The Gate*, I sat back waiting to be scared half to death.

While not a horror movie lover, the publicity hype was enough to whet my appetite to experience something out of the ordinary. I wanted to indulge, for once, in real spine-chilling horror. To feel the hair on the nape of my neck rise and for my heart to miss a beat.

I am sorry to say that, despite great special effects and make up, I wasn't moved by this supernatural fantasy thriller. And my sentiments, that I was waiting for something really terrible to happen, were echoed by another member of my family whose video pleasure is confined mainly to horror.

But in saying that, *The Gate* earns its M rating, and is not one to be left around for those of much tender years to get hold of. It could give them nightmares.

The story is centred on two lads who are duped into helping malevolent forces open the gate for the Demon Lord to reclaim dominance of the surface world.

The stars are teenagers, Glen (Stephen Dorff, *Still The Beaver*), his sister Al (Christa Denton, *The Burning Bed*) and Terry (Louis Tripp).

Glen, who spends his time launching toy rockets, has the awesome burden of confronting the Demon Lord when it invades the surface world.

His friend Terry, who is fascinated by anything unusual, sees a link between a rock album and a strange hole in Glen's garden, left by a falling tree.

It's Terry's incantations which do much to help the sinister forces spewing from the bowels of the Earth.

The vicious little creatures with sharp teeth which scuttle out of the hole in the garden and wreak

havoc in the house, are servants of the Demon Lord.

They frighten the three kids and two friends who are staying over for the night, paving the way for the vanquishing entrance

of the six-armed, four-eyed, two-storey high serpent man.

After a night of horror, fighting evil to the death, the weary trio emerge from the smoky ruins of Glen's house.

The dawn is breaking and the Earth is once more at peace. And Glen asks: "I wonder if Mom will notice (the house)."

**THE GATE** (Palace) Rated M  
★★★.



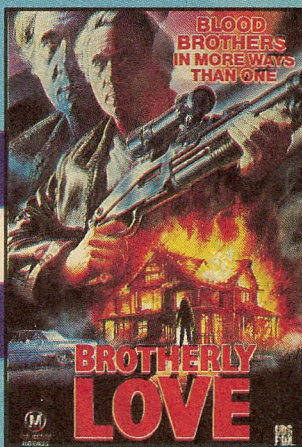
*The Demon Lord's minions, the vicious little creatures with sharp teeth.*

## GREAT ENTERTAINMENT IN YOUR OWN HOME



### BLACK WIDOW (M) THRILLER (HI-FI) 1987

Excellent performances from a top cast and powerful on-screen chemistry between DEBRA WINGER and THERESA RUSSELL fuel Bob Rafelson's complex psychological thriller about a beautiful serial killer whose victims are wealthy men. Easily the best thriller since JAGGED EDGE.



### BROTHERLY LOVE (M) SUSPENSE 1985

Double trouble abounds when a psychopathic killer and his identical twin brother became meshed in a web of terror and death. Judd Hirsch stars in this chilling suspense drama of sibling rivalry and brutal revenge.



### DOWN PAYMENT ON MURDER (M)

This film is based on a true story. Harry Cardell's flashy lifestyle always left him short of cash — except when he needed \$10,000 to have his wife murdered. Only two cops were prepared for the campaign of terror and violence Harry waged on his family. Their frantic chase finally ends at the morgue, with a bizarre series of events.

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